

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A telephone of the type including a control circuit adapted for detecting an
2 incoming call; the telephone further comprising: an announcement unit for broadcasting a
3 voice message indicative of an incoming call; and wherein the control circuit is adapted
4 for activating the announcement unit in response to detecting an incoming call.

1 2. The telephone of claim 1 wherein the telephone is a wireless telephone.

1 3. The telephone of claim 1 wherein the telephone is a cellular telephone.

1 4. The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a
2 sound recorder and a microphone for recording messages.

1 5. The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a sound
2 player containing at least one prerecorded message.

1 6. The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a
2 digital sound recorder and a microphone for recording messages.

1 7. The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a voice
2 synthesizer unit and memory containing at least one stored message.

1 8. A telephone system of the type including a control circuit adapted for
2 detecting an incoming call; the telephone further comprising:

3 an announcement unit comprising broadcast means adapted for broadcasting a
4 message indicative of an incoming call, and message storage means electronically
5 connected to the broadcast means for broadcasting a voice message via the broadcast
6 means; and

7 a control circuit adapted for activating the announcement unit in response to an
8 incoming call, to broadcast a voice message via the broadcast means.

1 9. A method for storing an announcement of, and announcing an incoming telephone
2 call, comprising:

3 in a selected telephone, storing a message announcing incoming calls;

4 upon receipt of an incoming telephone call by the selected telephone, broadcasting
5 the message via a speaker associated with the selected telephone, thereby announcing the
6 telephone call.

1 10. A method for storing and transmitting via a telephone network a message
2 announcing an incoming telephone call, comprising:

3 in a telephone network, storing a message announcing an incoming call directed to
4 a first telephone;

5 upon input of a call from a second telephone into the telephone network directed to
6 the first telephone, electronically transmitting said message to the first telephone;

7 at the first telephone, broadcasting said message via a speaker associated with the
8 selected telephone; and

9 completing the connection between the second telephone and the first telephone.

1 11. A method for transmitting via a telephone network a message announcing an
2 incoming call, comprising:

3 in a telephone network, electronically transmitting to a first telephone a voice
4 message input at a second telephone;

5 broadcasting said message via a speaker associated with the first telephone; and

6 completing the connection between the second telephone and the first telephone.